

AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph begins at line 12 of page 2 as follows:

-- The NOD2/CARD15 gene has the following Gene Bank Accession Number:

AC007728 ~~and NG_007508.1 (SEQ ID NO. 14)~~ from the NCBI data base. The nucleotide sequence is available with the help of the given accession numbers from the NCBI data base at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>. --